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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/598,392	Applicant(s) LANNES ET AL.
	Examiner JANET L. SUGLO	Art Unit 2857

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 April 2008.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 21-43 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 21-43 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 25 August 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-166/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/18/08

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The action is responsive to the Amendment filed on April 18, 2008. Claims 21-43 are pending. Claims 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 37 have been amended.

Claim Objections

2. **Claim 21** is objected to because of the following informalities: line 4 currently states "the machine relating to papermaking" and should be replaced with "a machine relating to papermaking". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
4. **Claims 21-43** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
5. With respect to **claims 21 and 33**, the term "stateful" or "statefully" is unclear. This term has not been defined in the specification, nor is it even mentioned in the specification. The Merriam-Webster dictionary does not have any entry for stateful. For the purpose of this office action the term "stateful" will be interpreted to mean full of state.

6. **Claim 21** recites the limitation "which method" in line 9. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is unclear whether this is the method being claimed or a separate method further describing the intended use.

7. **Claim 21** recites the limitation "the method" twice in line 9. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is unclear whether this is the method being claimed or a separate method further describing the intended use.

8. With respect to **claim 21**, the language of the claim is awkward. The full claim appears to be the preamble leaving no body with active limitations. There is no clear distinction between the preamble and the body of the claim. For examination on the merits, the claim will be interpreted as best understood.

9. As to **claims 22-32**, they depend on claim 21; therefore, they contain same problem explained above. For examination on the merits the claim(s) will be interpreted as best understood.

NOTE: See 37 CFR 1.75 and MPEP 608.01(m). The claim(s) must commence on a separate sheet or electronic page (37 CFR 1.52(b)(3)). Where a claim sets forth a plurality of elements or steps, each element or step of the claim should be separated by a line indentation. There may be plural indentations to further segregate subcombinations or related steps. See 37 CFR 1.75 and MPEP 608.01(i)-(p).

NOTE: A preamble is generally not accorded any patentable weight where it merely recites the purpose of a process or the intended use of a structure, and where the body of the claim does not depend on the preamble for completeness

but, instead, the process steps or structural limitations are able to stand alone.

See *In re Hirao*, 535 F.2d 67, 4190 USPQ 15 (CCPA 1976) and *Kropa v. Robie*, 187 F.2d 150, 152, 88 USPQ 478, 481 (CCPA 1951).

10. With respect to **claim 22** is unclear whether the diagnostic units are included in addition to every "or" statement or whether the diagnostic units are only include with the last "or" statement of quality assessment systems. For the purposes of this office action, it will be assumed that the "diagnostic units" are included only when quality assessment systems are included.

11. **Claim 33** recites the limitation "the machine" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

12. **Claim 33** recites the limitation "the teleservice center" in line 5. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

13. **Claim 33** recites the limitation "machine units" in line 6. It is unclear which machine units are being referred to. It is unclear whether it is referring to "machines" in line 1 or "the machine" in line 2, or to both machines mentioned.

14. **Claim 33** recites the limitation "which system" in line 8. It is unclear which system is being referred to. It is unclear whether it is referring to the "system" in line one, the "automation systems" in line 2, the "plant data system" in line 3, the "automation system" in line 6, the "monitoring system" in line 7, or to all systems mentioned.

15. **Claim 33** recites the limitation "the system" twice in line 8. It is unclear which system is being referred to each time. It is unclear whether it is referring to the "system"

in line one, the "automation systems" in line 2, the "plant data system" in line 3, the "automation system" in line 6, the "monitoring system" in line 7, the system in line 8, or to all systems mentioned.

16. As to **claims 34-43**, they depend on claim 21; therefore, they contain same problem explained above. For examination on the merits the claim(s) will be interpreted as best understood.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

17. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

18. **Claim 21, 22, 24, 26, 27, 31, 33-39 and 41-43** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maki (US PGPub 2002/0052715).

With respect to **claim 21**, Maki teaches a method in the maintenance of machines, processes, automation systems and equipment relating to papermaking (e.g., [0002], [0003], [0004]), wherein a teleservice connection based on a data communication link is arranged between a production plant and a teleservice center (e.g., [0025]), and wherein the machine relating to papermaking is located at a production plant which is equipped with a plant data system (e.g., Figure 2), and

wherein the condition, state or performance of the machine units or processes or automation systems of a production line at the production plant are monitored by monitoring systems in order to recognize emergency situations (e.g., Figure 2; [0030]),

in which method in a recognized emergency situation an automatic service process is started based on signals given by said monitoring systems (e.g., [0004], [0030]), and

wherein the method functions statefully, whereby the method ensures that all stages will be carried out and that all messages will reach their destination (e.g., [0029]).

First it is noted that a preamble is generally not accorded any patentable weight where it merely recites the purpose of a process or the intended use of a structure, and where the body of the claim does not depend on the preamble for completeness but, instead, the process steps or structural limitations are able to stand alone. See *In re Hirao*, 535 F.2d 67, 4190 USPQ 15 (CCPA 1976) and *Kropa v. Robie*, 187 F.2d 150, 152, 88 USPQ 478, 481 (CCPA 1951).

Further it is noted that the emergency message is sent via a computer and one of ordinary skill in the art would know that the computer automatically carries out the process, however Maki does not explicitly state that the process is automatic. In *re Venner*, 262 F.2d 91, 95, 120 USPQ 193, 194 (CCPA 1958) (Appellant argued that claims to a permanent mold casting apparatus for molding trunk pistons were allowable over the prior art because the claimed invention combined "old permanent- mold structures together with a timer and solenoid which automatically actuates the known

pressure valve system to release the inner core after a predetermined time has elapsed." The court held that broadly providing an automatic or mechanical means to replace a manual activity which accomplished the same result is not sufficient to distinguish over the prior art.). It is therefore obvious to make a manual operation automatic.

With respect to **claim 24**, Maki teaches based on said automatic service process, instructions for action are formed automatically in order to remedy failure situations at the production plant (e.g., [0030]).

Further it is noted that the emergency message is sent via a computer and one of ordinary skill in the art would know that the computer automatically carries out the process, however Maki does not explicitly state that the process is automatic. In re Venner, 262 F.2d 91, 95, 120 USPQ 193, 194 (CCPA 1958) (Appellant argued that claims to a permanent mold casting apparatus for molding trunk pistons were allowable over the prior art because the claimed invention combined "old permanent- mold structures together with a timer and solenoid which automatically actuates the known pressure valve system to release the inner core after a predetermined time has elapsed." The court held that broadly providing an automatic or mechanical means to replace a manual activity which accomplished the same result is not sufficient to distinguish over the prior art.). It is therefore obvious to make a manual operation automatic.

With respect to **claim 26**, Maki teaches a data communication link is arranged between the teleservice connection and the plant data system (e.g., Figure 2).

With respect to **claim 27**, Maki teaches data measured earlier on the same or a similar object is utilized in the failure situation analysis (e.g., [0004]).

With respect to **claim 31**, Maki teaches the automatically generated instructions for action are delivered as an automatic message to service staff of the teleservice center or to service staff of the production plant (e.g., [0025], [0030]).

With respect to **claim 33**, Maki teaches a system in the maintenance of machines, processes, automation systems and equipment relating to papermaking (e.g., [0002], [0003]), where the machine relating to papermaking is located at a production plant which is equipped with a plant data system (e.g., Figure 2), and wherein a teleservice connection based on a data communication link is arranged between the production plant and the teleservice center (e.g., [0025]), and where the condition, state or performance of machine units or processes or automation systems of a production line at the production plant are monitored by monitoring systems, in order to recognize emergency situations (e.g., Figure 2; [0030]), which system comprises means for providing an automatic service process (e.g., [0004]), wherein the system is

stateful whereby the system functions in such a way that all messages will reach their destination and all defined stages will be carried out (e.g., [0029]).

Further it is noted that the emergency message is sent via a computer and one of ordinary skill in the art would know that the computer automatically carries out the process, however Maki does not explicitly state that the process is automatic. In re Venner, 262 F.2d 91, 95, 120 USPQ 193, 194 (CCPA 1958) (Appellant argued that claims to a permanent mold casting apparatus for molding trunk pistons were allowable over the prior art because the claimed invention combined "old permanent- mold structures together with a timer and solenoid which automatically actuates the known pressure valve system to release the inner core after a predetermined time has elapsed." The court held that broadly providing an automatic or mechanical means to replace a manual activity which accomplished the same result is not sufficient to distinguish over the prior art.). It is therefore obvious to make a manual operation automatic.

With respect to **claims 22 and 34**, Maki teaches the monitoring systems comprise conditions monitoring systems (e.g., Figure 2: 24).

With respect to **claim 35**, Maki teaches means for providing automatically generated instructions for action (e.g., Figure 2, [0030]).

With respect to **claim 36**, Maki teaches means for collecting automatic measured data from the machine units of the production plant (e.g., [0027]);
means for transmitting the measured data from the production plant to a teleservice center (e.g., Figure 2: Internet);
means for analyzing the measured data at the teleservice center (e.g., [0030]);
means for generating automatic instructions for action at the teleservice center (e.g., [0030]); and
means for transmitting the automatic instructions for action to inform service staff (e.g., [0030], [0033]).

With respect to **claim 37**, Maki teaches a data-collecting unit arranged to collect and store data arriving from the monitoring systems (e.g., Figure 2: 10, 13); and a message relay system adapted to receive triggering signals and data arriving from the data-collecting unit or itself to form a triggering signal (e.g., Figure 2: 10, 13, 12, 14).

With respect to **claim 38**, Maki teaches a data communication link is arranged between the message relay system and the plant data system (e.g., Figure 2: Internet).

With respect to **claim 39**, Maki teaches the message relay system is arranged to form and transmit messages in a structured form (e.g., Figure 2: Internet).

With respect to **claim 41**, Maki teaches the messages formed by the message relay system are encrypted or protected in some other manner (e.g., [0029]).

With respect to **claim 42**, Maki teaches means for generating a video and audio link between the production plant and the teleservice center (e.g., [0007]).

With respect to **claim 43**, Maki teaches the link between the production plant and the teleservice center comprises a quick-acting key, which is arranged to open a direct data transmission link without any essential delay between the operator at the production plant and the staff at the teleservice center, as well as the means required for the data transmission link (e.g., Figure 2, [0018], [0025]).

19. **Claim 23, 25, 28-30, and 32** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maki in view of Hill, Jr. et al. (US Patent 5,057,866) (hereinafter "Hill").

With respect to **claim 23**, Maki teaches parent claim 21, but does not specify an established limit value. Hill teaches said automatic service process is started when the value of measured data collected from the monitoring systems exceeds an established limit value (e.g., Hill: col 6, ln 1-31). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Maki to include the threshold levels of Hill

because the threshold technique quickly alerts the diagnostic system to resolve the issue in a time saving and money saving manner (e.g., Hill: col 1, ln 1-40).

With respect to **claim 25**, Maki further teaches wherein the automatic service process comprises stages, in which

in the production plant a data collecting unit is arranged, which receives the signals or measured data arriving from the monitoring systems and stores them in a database (e.g., Maki: Figure 2);

a message relay system is arranged at the production plant to receive the signals arriving from the data-collecting unit, which signals comprise triggering signals and measured data (e.g., Maki: Figure 2);

based on said signals or said triggering signals a failure situation is defined as having occurred (e.g., Maki: [0030]);

a data communication link is arranged between the message relay system and the teleservice center (e.g., Maki: Figure 2);

in a failure situation, an automatic failure report is transmitted to the teleservice center by using said data communication link (e.g., Maki: [0030]);

the failure situation is analyzed automatically at the teleservice center (e.g., Maki: [0030]); and

based on the analysis, instructions for action are generated automatically to remedy the failure situation (e.g., Maki: [0004], [0030]).

Maki does not explicitly teach limit values. Hill teaches for magnitudes measured or determined by the monitoring systems limit values are established, and any exceeding or falling short of these will cause a triggering signal (e.g., Hill: col 6, ln 1-20). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Maki to include the threshold levels of Hill because the threshold technique quickly alerts the diagnostic system to resolve the issue in a time saving and money saving manner (e.g., Hill: col 1, ln 1-40).

With respect to **claim 28**, Maki does not explicitly teach adjusting operating parameters. Hill teaches changing threshold values or formulas used under specific conditions (e.g., Hill: col 6, ln 32-48). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Maki to include the threshold levels of Hill because the threshold technique quickly alerts the diagnostic system to resolve the issue in a time saving and money saving manner (e.g., Hill: col 1, ln 1-40).

With respect to **claim 29**, Maki does not explicitly teach putting off the service action. Hill teaches that changing the threshold values will subsequently change the state that the machine is interpreted as being in. As a result the new status designation will put off the service action if the threshold value has been moved to place the machine in a acceptable threshold range (e.g., Hill: col 6, ln 32-63). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Maki to include the threshold levels of Hill because the threshold technique quickly alerts the

diagnostic system to resolve the issue in a time saving and money saving manner (e.g., Hill: col 1, ln 1-40).

With respect to **claim 30**, Maki does not explicitly teach putting off the service action. Hill teaches that changing the threshold values will subsequently change the state that the machine is interpreted as being in. As a result the new status designation will put off the service action if the threshold value has been moved to place the machine in a acceptable threshold range until a typical service would occur (e.g., Hill: col 6, ln 8-63). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Maki to include the threshold levels of Hill because the threshold technique quickly alerts the diagnostic system to resolve the issue in a time saving and money saving manner (e.g., Hill: col 1, ln 1-40).

With respect to **claim 32**, Maki teaches said automatic service process instructions for action or an action are formed automatically in order to remedy failure situations at the production plant comprise a control action (e.g., Maki: [0030]). Maki does not teach adjusting operating parameters. Hill teaches parameters of the production plant's machine unit are adjusted automatically (e.g., Hill: col 6, ln 32-40). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Maki to include the threshold levels of Hill because the threshold technique quickly alerts the diagnostic system to resolve the issue in a time saving and money saving manner (e.g., Hill: col 1, ln 1-40).

20. **Claim 40** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maki in view of Takase et al. (US PGPub 2003/0236857) (hereinafter "Takase"). Maki teaches parent claim 39, but does not specify the use of XML formatted messages. Takase teaches using XML messages across an internet connection (e.g., Takase: [0006]). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Maki to include the XML messaging of Takase because XML messages are popular data formats used over the internet which efficiently carry data (e.g., Takase: [0006], [0009]).

Response to Arguments

21. Applicant's arguments filed 4/18, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Maki does not teach a "stateful" system on pages 7 and 10 of his arguments; however, Applicant's arguments are not well taken. The original specification does not mention the word stateful anywhere, much less does it provide a definition for stateful. It also does not mention a stateful firewall. The publications provided by Applicant do not constitute a reliable, well known definition. Wikipedia states on their "About Wikipedia" page that "**Allowing anyone to edit** Wikipedia means that it is more easily vandalized or susceptible to unchecked information, which requires removal." Wikipedia is not seen as a reliable source. The definition given by

Webopedia.com is for a stateful inspection which is not claimed, nor is it in the specification. The publication from Check point refers to a patent where they allegedly coined the word stateful, however US Patent 5,606,668 never even mentions the word stateful. As stated above, for the purpose of this Office Action, stateful will be defined as "full of state" as a common understanding of English grammar would dictate.

Applicant argues that Maki does not teach "maintenance of machines, processes, automation systems and equipment relating to papermaking" on page 8 of his arguments; however, Applicant's arguments are not well taken. First it is noted that a preamble is generally not accorded any patentable weight where it merely recites the purpose of a process or the intended use of a structure, and where the body of the claim does not depend on the preamble for completeness but, instead, the process steps or structural limitations are able to stand alone. See *In re Hirao*, 535 F.2d 67, 4190 USPQ 15 (CCPA 1976) and *Kropa v. Robie*, 187 F.2d 150, 152, 88 USPQ 478, 481 (CCPA 1951). Secondly Maki teaches in paragraphs [0003] and [0004] that the invention is related to the maintenance management of paper mills, board mills, pulp production plants, paper finishing plants and the like.

Applicant argues that Maki and Hill do not teach "in a recognized emergency situation an automatic service process is started based on signals given by said monitoring systems" on pages 9 and 10 of his arguments; however, Applicant's arguments are not well taken. First it is noted that a preamble is generally not accorded

any patentable weight where it merely recites the purpose of a process or the intended use of a structure, and where the body of the claim does not depend on the preamble for completeness but, instead, the process steps or structural limitations are able to stand alone. See *In re Hirao*, 535 F.2d 67, 4190 USPQ 15 (CCPA 1976) and *Kropa v. Robie*, 187 F.2d 150, 152, 88 USPQ 478, 481 (CCPA 1951). Further it is noted that in *Maki* the emergency message is sent via a computer and one of ordinary skill in the art would know that the computer automatically carries out the process, however *Maki* does not explicitly state that the process is automatic. *In re Venner*, 262 F.2d 91, 95, 120 USPQ 193, 194 (CCPA 1958) (Appellant argued that claims to a permanent mold casting apparatus for molding trunk pistons were allowable over the prior art because the claimed invention combined "old permanent- mold structures together with a timer and solenoid which automatically actuates the known pressure valve system to release the inner core after a predetermined time has elapsed." The court held that broadly providing an automatic or mechanical means to replace a manual activity which accomplished the same result is not sufficient to distinguish over the prior art.). It is therefore obvious to make a manual operation automatic. *Hill* further teaches automatically sending a message to a remote site (*Hill*: col 4, ln 47-55).

Applicant argues that *Hill* does not teach "an instruction is proposed concerning adjustment of operating parameters of the machine" on page 11 of his arguments; however, Applicant's arguments are not well taken. Operating parameters are the parameters under which the machine is operating. Therefore when *Hill* is referring to

changing the threshold values or change the mathematical model or formula he is changing the parameters under which the machine is operating

Applicant argues with respect to claim 30 that "the examiner confuses changing the allowed threshold value, so the machine is not considered to be out of an acceptable range, with the claimed step of changing the 'operating parameters of the machine;'" however, Applicant's arguments are not well taken. As discussed above, operating parameters are the parameters under which the machine is operating. Therefore when Hill is referring to changing the threshold values or change the mathematical model or formula he is changing the parameters under which the machine is operating which then can put off the service action.

Conclusion

22. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Okena, Inc. (WO 02/103498) teaches a stateful reference monitor which keeps track of the state information and correlates the state information across different interceptors.

Buchbinder et al. (US PGPub 2002/0078198) teaches a stateful firewall.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JANET L. SUGLO whose telephone number is (571)272-8584. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eliseo Ramos-Feliciano can be reached on 571-272-7925. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/JANET L SUGLO/
Examiner, Art Unit 2857

/Eliseo Ramos-Feliciano/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2857